



TOWN OF

KENSINGTON

JANUARY
2003
JOURNAL

January 27th 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting

Public Hearing on Variance Request for 3794 Howard Avenue
Public Hearing on Variance Request for 10412 Mannakee Street
Proposed use of 3514 Plyers Mill Road (Jendell property) by Montessori School
Presentation by DACA representatives on Phase III
of Howard Avenue Revitalization
Decision on Calvert Place Speed Bump
Audit Committee Report

**Note: The public hearing on outsourcing trash has been changed
and will be at the February Town Meeting.**

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

February 3, 7:00 p.m. Work Session
February 24, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting

Town Office will be closed on January 20 and February 17.
Trash pick up will be the following day.

If you would like to receive brief e-mail updates regarding Town business please sign up for e-Announcements on the home page of the Town's website (www.tok.org)

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;
E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

2002 Winter Holiday Poster

Contest Winners

Caitlin Furman	12 th grade
Liisa Fetig	8 th grade
Will McCurry	6 th grade
Greg Oppenheim	5 th grade
Marjorie McCurry	4 th grade
Kendell Strachan	2 nd grade
Emerson Smith	1 st grade
Sarah Strachan	Pre-school

Snow Policy

In case of a winter storm, please park vehicles in driveways when possible or park on the even side of the street on even dates and the odd side of the street on odd dates. Also, please place trash curbside.

Remember to clear the walkway in front of your property within 24 hours after a storm. This is a Town Ordinance.

St. Paul Park

Construction plans for St. Paul Park are available for review at Town Hall.

Maryland Tax Return 2002

Form 502 Resident

One of the major sources of revenue which the Town receives each year is the Town's share of income taxes which each resident pays to the State of Maryland. Remember to write the Town of Kensington in the box marked city, town, or taxing area. This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town.

Building Permits

Replace signs at 10707 Connecticut Avenue
Addition/new guest house at 3923 Prospect Street
Addition at 3913 Washington Street
Install signs at 10315 Kensington Parkway
Install sign at 3730 Howard Avenue

2003 Calendars

If you would like to purchase a Kensington Historical Society Calendar they are available at the Town Office for \$7.00.

Scholarships Available

Two \$1,500 college scholarships will be awarded again this year to Montgomery County high school and/or college students with at least average grades who are involved in community service and who plan a career in government or public service. Preference will be given to residents who live in a municipality or special taxing district.

The scholarships are being offered by the Montgomery Chapter of Maryland Municipal League.

Application blanks and announcements are available at the Town office, at the Montgomery College Office of Financial Aid and from high school counselors. Completed applications with attachments must be sent in by April 10, 2003.

Message from the Mayor's Desk

2002 for our Town was a successful year. Thanks to our citizens working together volunteering many hours and providing new ideas. Each of you who gave of your time on a committee is appreciated by all who benefited by your dedication and involvement.

Special thanks to Tracy Furman for chairing the Light Up The Town celebration in December. The entire committee did a great job of pulling residents and merchants together for a successful event enjoyed by all who attended.

Thanks to Sally Shaffer for chairing the Holiday Basket Project for families in need. Hopefully this will be a project to continue each year.

Thanks to our residents for your patience while we tackled the leaves that fell late and the snow that came early. Many of you called the Town office to inquire about the problems. Once the situation was explained you understood and were willing to wait while we struggled to clean our Town of nature's surprises.

This November and December you read about weather and the problems that our metropolitan suburbs were experiencing. Each meeting the Mayor attended with other municipal officials the topic of concern was how we were each dealing with leaf-snow removal. By the time you read this report all leaves will have been removed and hopefully no more snow will be falling.

This past month the Mayor attended a National League of Cities (NLC) Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah representing all municipalities in the State of Maryland as President of the Maryland Municipal League. NLC keeps us abreast of the Federal issues we must face. She also attended a Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Conference in Annapolis. This conference provided a venue for the Mayor to meet with County officials across the State and to share ideas of mutual concern to all local governments. Montgomery County Council Member Marilyn Prasner was installed by Governor- Elect Ehrlich as the new President of MACO. MACO and MML are both promoting the need for all levels of government to work closely together to provide the best services to our constituencies.

The Mayor continues to travel throughout the state with MML staff to present our legislative agenda for this session of the general assembly. There has been over a forty percent turnover of state legislators which provides an opportunity for municipal government to get to know our new legislators and reestablish connection with the former legislators throughout our state.

Your Mayor is looking forward to 2003 to improve services and continue to improve the infrastructure to our Town, thus improving the quality of life we have all grown to enjoy and expect in our Town.

Council Member Carr's Report

Traffic and Safety

- The next Town Walk is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th at 9:30am (see flyer). It is amazing the things you notice when you slow down and take a good look around. So far, I rate our Town infrastructure as a C+ for pedestrian friendliness. With some modest improvements we could easily move to a B+!
- The traffic advisory committee meets next at 7pm on Wednesday, February 5th at Town Hall. The meeting is open to all.
- The new left turn arrow is now working at Connecticut Ave. & Knowles. I reported to State Highway Administration the "orange" stoplight problem.
- Drafted a follow-up letter to State Highway Administration to outline the next steps for pursuing safety improvements to Connecticut Ave. and our major intersections.
- Working with Montgomery County Police to clarify the capabilities of off-duty officers for supplemental enforcement within the Town.
- Met with a resident to discuss pedestrian and traffic improvements on Montgomery Avenue.
- Researched possible pedestrian improvements on Armory Avenue.
- Researched traffic safety improvements on Plyers Mill Road.
- Corresponded with community leaders of neighboring Rock Creek Hills on mutual traffic & transportation issues.
- Researching ways the Town can cost effectively improve our streetlights.

Miscellaneous

- Worked with our Town Webmaster and Clerk-Treasurer to complete the changeover of the Town office from dialup to a broadband internet connection. Besides the productivity improvements, the Town will save over \$600 annually in telephone and internet expenses.
- Joined our Mayor and Council Member Pfautz at a meeting with our state legislators to discuss priorities for the new year including funding issues and speed camera legislation.
- Worked with Council Member Scharman to compile a list of Town web site improvements. Assisted the student group from the University of Maryland to complete their strategic plan for a Town web portal.

Happy New Year! As always, please e-mail me or call me any time you have an idea, question or concern. phone: 946-4956. e-mail: acarr@aol.com

Council Member Cowan's Report

This is a great place to live. Our children walk to their friends' homes just as we did as kids. We have real friends as neighbors. Local merchants know our names and take the time to chat if we are so inclined. The town's employees and elected officials are imminently available (sometimes more than I would like!) and the local schools are just that – local. Kensington is a gem amid much roughage and we are all lucky to live in this community and I think most of us would have it remain pretty much as it is.

Unfortunately we don't live in a static world. The dynamic economic, social and political forces that swirl around Kensington affect us for good or ill in ways sometimes seemingly beyond our control. Nevertheless, we all need to continue to strive to contain the negative outside influences and work to better benefit from the positive aspects of the greater community. In this respect we are making progress even as we continue to struggle with significant challenges,

In the coming years we hope to complete a series of traffic, land use, zoning, recreation and government charter studies that will serve as strategic planning tools for a decade and more. Working with the state and county, the traffic study will result in new local traffic patterns and show the way to dealing effectively with the corridors running through town. The land use and zoning controls that affect us everyday will be re-written to reflect current realities and future expectations. The recreation plan will guide expansion of our parks and other open space and help preserve our historic core. The charter study will provide a governmental framework appropriate to manage these strategic initiatives and administer town services.

Each of these endeavors will require both financial and personnel resources. Good planning requires professional assistance and I expect that the coming years' budgets will reflect increased spending as we invest in the future. Luckily, most of the personnel resources will come from all of us as each of these processes will involve citizens either through formal committee structures, town meetings and public hearings or by informal communication with committee members and your government.

It will be an exciting time.

Council Member Scharman's Report

We are in the process of finalizing the construction plans for St. Paul Park this month. Improvements include correction of field drainage problems, re-surfacing and painting the basketball court, replacement of the walking path, replacement of the parking barrier, paving the parking area, addition of water fountain and replacement of the backstop. The plans are displayed in the Council Room.

I have continued working with the Mayor and Kensington Cabin Committee to identify possible resources to renovate the Cabin. The renovation and use of the Cabin could be an important part of recreational and social activities for our area.

I attended the third meeting of the Revitalization Steering Committee; a speaker from

Frederick discussed how their city had undergone revitalization of their commercial areas. The next meeting of the committee will focus on preparation of the mission statement and organization of the committee. It will be exciting to see how the revitalization tools used throughout the country can be implemented here in Kensington.

I supplied final comments and continued to work with Council Member Carr on the development document for the town's website. The document proposes additions which would strengthen communication and coordination of services and activities in the town as well as additional links to other resources and information in the County.

I compiled research on park and tree ordinances from towns in Montgomery County and elsewhere in the State to better understand how Maryland municipalities protect their resources. I will work with Council Member Pfautz to determine if any new ordinances or guidelines should be proposed for our Town.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

December 16, 2002

The Work Session commenced at 7:36 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

Tracey Furman, Tree Lighting Committee Chairman, presented the winning posters from the holiday poster contest. The winners were Caitlin Furman, Liisa Fetig, Will McCurry, Greg Oppenheim, Marjorie McCurry, Kendell Strachan, Emerson Smith, and Sarah Strachan.

Council Member Scharman presented a resolution from the MNCPPC to support funding for Program Open Space.

John Thompson, Assistant Fire Chief of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, informed Mayor, Council, and residents of their concerns regarding a proposed closing of Station 21 on Viers Mill Road and reduction of administrative support and asked for support from the community.

Sergeant Evan Thompson and Community Police Officer Denise Gill were present to discuss supplemental off duty police enforcement in the Town. They stated that off duty police officers would not be effective in some situations because they would only be allowed to drive their cars to and from a site and it was unclear whether that includes multiple spots in a "site". The Mayor and Council asked the officers to clarify what "site" pertains to and obtain information regarding the use of laser speed detection devices and whether officers can pursue. Officer Gill suggested the Town play a greater role in educating drivers and pedestrians on the existing laws and restrictions. The Mayor and Council discussed and updated items on the project list.

The Mayor and Council concurred to send out the RFP for the traffic study with responses due Feb 15th and completion of the study by December 31, 2003.

The Mayor and Council discussed outsourcing trash and costs associated with back door pickup vs. curbside. A fact sheet will be prepared and this will be discussed further at the January Town Meeting.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

Council Actions

Council Member Scharman moved to adopt resolution 2002-12 to support Program Open Space funding. Council Member Carr seconded and the motion passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

January 6, 2003

The Work Session commenced at 7:05 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Scharman, Building Inspector Furman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels, were present and the following issues were addressed:

David Furman was sworn in by the Mayor as the Town's new Building Inspector.

Council Member Cowan presented information from the engineer on the request for the speed bump on Calvert Place. The engineer recommended against the installation of a speed bump at the stop sign. The Council discussed an alternative to a new speed bump which would be to build the existing speed bump to County standards, add a crosswalk, and paint stop on the street. The Council deferred making a decision until the January Town Meeting.

The Mayor and Council discussed and updated items on the project list.

Council Member Carr presented a draft letter to SHA as a follow-up to the meeting on November 18th for Council review.

The Council discussed and approved the proposed fines presented by Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton for municipal infractions.

The Council concurred to collect building permit fees at time of application.

The outsourcing of trash was discussed. The Council agreed to have a draft fact sheet – outlining cost advantages, comparison service with other municipalities, etc. - prepared for discussion at the February Work Session. A public hearing will be held at the February Town Meeting.

Council Member Carr presented a list of proposed web site changes for the webmaster to review.

The Code Enforcement action list was reviewed.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

The Council agreed with Jenny Smith's recommendation to ask Chief Moose to be the sole Grand Marshal of the Labor Day Parade.

The minutes from December 16, 2002 were reviewed and corrected.

Council Actions

Council Member Cowan moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of David Furman as Building Inspector. Council Member Pfautz seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to repeal Article 2, Sections 8-201 through 8-227 inclusive, relating to erosion, sediment control and storm water management and to amend Section 1-202, References to the Laws of Other Jurisdictions of the Code of Ordinances as emergency legislation, effective immediately, to include the following as subtitle (e):

The Town hereby adopts and makes part of this Code by reference Chapter 19 of the Montgomery County Code entitled "Erosion, Sediment Control and Storm Water Management." This Subsection is an exception to the general exemption enacted by this Section. A copy of Chapter 19 of the Montgomery County Code shall be kept in the Town office and shall be made available during normal business hours.

Council Member Scharman seconded and it passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.

Council Member Pfautz moved to rescind the motion made on November 18th to move \$20,000 from surplus to sidewalk reconstruction and instead move \$20,000 from GASB to sidewalk reconstruction; move \$15,000 from street maintenance to street reconstruction and move \$2,000 from office expense to office equipment. Council member Cowan seconded and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

<p><i>The Town of Kensington expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Olga C. de la Maza (mother of long time resident Sylvia Maza) who recently passed away.</i></p>

Dear Town Resident:

As you may already be aware from reading Council reports in the Town Journal, the Charter Review Committee has met with residents asking for consideration of a Town charter amendment to allow Kensington residents with legal immigration status to vote in Town elections. They brought with them copies of relevant parts of the Charters from some of our neighboring municipalities: Martins Additions; Somerset; Takoma Park; and Garret Park that allow legal aliens to vote in their elections (copies are available at the Town office). This change would allow those who have not obtained US citizenship but are residents and taxpayers in our community to participate in our elections.

Currently, Article VII (Registration, Nominations and Elections), Section 701 (Qualifications of Voters) of the Town Charter, says “

“Every person who (a) is a citizen of the United States, (b) is at least eighteen (18) years of age, (c) has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty (30) days, and (d) is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, shall be a qualified voter of the Town.”

The change being recommended would change this language to:

“Every person who (a) is a citizen of the United States **OR LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO RESIDE IN THE UNITED STATES**, (b) is at least eighteen (18) years of age, (c) has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty (30) days, and (d) is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, shall be a qualified voter of the Town.”

The Council would like to hear your thoughts and comments on this proposed change to our municipal Charter. Please complete the information below and either return to the Town office or mail it back to us by February 21, 2002.

I support this proposed Charter change ____.

I DO NOT support this proposed Charter change ____.

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Town address: _____

Town Walk

Saturday, January 25th

9:30am

Meet at the MARC train station

The Town of Kensington Traffic Advisory Committee invites Town residents to join your neighbors and friends in a morning walk. This is the second of a series of walks on Town streets and sidewalks. We will tour the streets of Metropolitan, Wheatley, Oberon, Mannakee, Kensington Parkway North, and Plyers Mill. The Walk will take about 1 hour and a half. Kids and Strollers are welcome!

The goals of the Town Walk:

- Meet your neighbors
- Get some exercise
- Identify pedestrian and traffic hazards

Additional Town Walks will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month in February (22nd), March (22nd) and April (26th).

For more information, please contact council member Al Carr
phone: 946-4956, e-mail: acarr@aol.com